Indo-Sweden Co-operation

2008. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sweden have decided to accelerate the tempo of collaboration between the two countries by expanding co-operation in new areas and bringing the medium and small industries into the co-operation fold; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The need to accelerate the tempo of co-operation between Sweden and India has been emphasised during the bilateral talks between the two countries at various levels. Recently during the Indo-Swedish Joint Business Council meeting held on 13th June, 1991, in Stockholm the need for increased economic co-operation between two countries, specially in areas of industrial collaboration was once again highlighted. It was recognised by both sides that India needs sophisticated technology specially in the Small and Medium Scale Industries. A series of items that have been identified as having a good potential for collaboration include the following:—

Energy-related equipment.

Air Pollution control equipment.

Power generation, transmission & distribution.

Instruments & electronic systems for industrial processing automation.

Effluent treatment plants.

Transportation.

Material, handling equipment.

Machine Tools.

Alternative energy equipment.

Food processing and packaging.

Ship-building and port maintenance.

Aviatronics and navigation.

Medical instruments, health care equipment.

Mining and excavation.

Oil and natural gas.

Plastic recycling plant.

Machines for fibre glass products.

Automatic plastic welding machines.

Printing and quality machines.

Both Indian and Swedish sides also visualised the possibilities for third-country collaborations in areas like civil engineering and construction.

Proposal to explore Ocean Wealth

2009. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any concrete proposal to explore the rich ocean wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government plan to offer projects to private companies to take up these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following Departments/agencies undertake projects relating to ocean wealth:

1. *Department of Ocean Development (DOD)*:

1. *Polymetallic nodules*: It is already implementing a programme for the exploration of Polymetallic Nodules at the Pioneer Area allotted by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority in the Central Indian Ocean through the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. This site, measuring to an area of 1,50,000 sq.km., is estimated to have 380 million tonnes of nodules containing approximately 73 million tonnes of manganese, 3.2 million tonnes of nickel, 3 million tonnes of

copper and 0.5 million tonnes of cobalt. The Polymetallic Nodules Programme is at R&D stage and the survey and exploration is being carried out with the help of the National Institute of Oceanography. The R&D on extractive metallurgy is also under way and is being carried out with the help of Regional Research Laboratory (Bhubaneswar), Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (Udaipur) and National Metallurgical Laboratory (Jamshedpur). The project for development of a test mining system is being implemented by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (Durgapur). Besides the PMN programme, the DOD is also undertaking a project on harnessing of energy from wave action through the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

2. *Electricity from waves*: A prototype wave power generation system at an installed capacity of 150 KW is being fabricated at Vizhinjam, Kerala, through Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

3. *High quality Potassium chloride from seawater*: A project on extraction of high quality Potassium chloride from seawater is being implemented through the Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute and the Hindustan Salts Limited.

4. *Fishery resources*: Assessment of living resources in the EEZ is being carried out using the Department's Fisheries and Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada. The studies conducted have revealed existence of rich fishing grounds of Threadfin bream, Ribbon fish, Lizard fish, and the Deep Sea Lobster at selected locations in the EEZ.

II. *Geological Survey of India (GSI)*

It is carrying out seabed surveys for exploration of minerals in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country. About 62% of the area has already been surveyed. The seabed survey by GSI have revealed the followings:

(i) Extensive patches of multiplacer sands (ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite) in the near shelf domain of Gopalpur, Orissa, Kalingapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and Quilon-Varkala and Muttam, Kerala have been delineated.

(ii) Significant concentrations of ilmenite sands have been delineated off Maharashtra coast.

(iii) Highgrade lime mud off Pentakota, Andhra Pradesh has been delineated.

(iv) About 283 million tonnes of pure calcareous sands in the lagoons and shallow off shore areas of Lakshadweep have been inferred.

III. *Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas*

It is exploring the potential of petroleum hydrocarbons in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea through the Oil & Natural Gas Commission.

IV. *Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)*

It is engaged in research leading to the assessment on stock of the living resources in the EEZ of the country. The studies made so for have led to the following conclusions:

(i) The estimated potential yield of fishery resources of the EEZ is 3.9 million tonnes. Of this, the inshore share is 2.21 million tonnes and the offshore beyond 50 metres is 1.69 million tonnes.

(ii) The demersal resources up to 50 metres are estimated at 1.04 million tonnes and beyond 50 metres it is 0.65 million tonnes.

(iii) The pelagic resources up to 50 metres depth is estimated as 1.17 million tonnes and beyond this depth it is 0.74 million tonnes.

(iv) The oceanic resources comprise mainly of tuna, yellowfin, big eye, shipjack sharks and bill fishes. Their stock potential is estimated to be 0.3 million tonnes.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to invite bids from the Indian and International companies, only for the exploration of petroleum hydrocarbons in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

Backwardness and Unemployment Problem in Garhwal Districts

2012. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a sub-committee under the Planning Commission to go into the economic backwardness and acute unemployment problem in the Garhwal districts of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being contemplated to remove economic backwardness and to create employment opportunities for the local population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Special attention is being accorded by the State Government for effective implementation of anti-poverty and employment oriented programmes like IRDP, J.R.Y., Nehru Rojgar Yojana and suitable opportunities for self-employment are being provided by promoting subsidiary occupations.

Coverage of TV and AIR in Maharashtra

2013. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present position in regard to the TV and Radio coverage in Maharashtra;

(b) whether a large portion of the State is still uncovered by TV and Radio; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in next two years for expansion of coverage of the remaining portion of the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) The Radio and TV services in Maharashtra are at present available to about 98% and 74.7% of population and to about 97% and 59.97% in terms of the area of the State respectively. The TV coverage data, however, includes the areas falling in the fringe of the service range of the TV transmitter where viewers can receive TV signals with the use of elevated antennae and boosters.

(c) While a High Power (10 KW) TV Transmitter is under establishment at Ambajogai, it has been planned to set up 3 additional Low Power TV Transmitters, one each at Khamgaon, Hinganghat and Akot. On the other hand, it has been planned to set up Radio Stations at Akola, Chanderpur, Dhule, Satara, Yeotmal, Kolhapur, Nasik and Osmanabad and to upgrade the existing Transmitter at Bombay to 50 KW Power.

The extension of Radio and TV coverage to the remaining uncovered parts of the State can be carried out only in a phased manner depending upon availability of resources for the purposes.